

Mr. Beecher's Position.

His Opinion of Sects and their Doctrines.

In his current number of the *Christian Union*, Mr. Beecher thus defines his position:—

The Presbyterian, in a not unkind article on "Mr. Beecher's Theology," says, after quoting a paragraph from his reply to Dr. Curry:—

"We suppose that this is about as near a definition of his position as Mr. Beecher will ever come. And if any one would attempt to hold him to this, and demand consistency, the very demand would probably bring about an outbreak of independence as would put Mr. Beecher again outside of any theological classification."

The life of Christian sects develops in two forms—as an intellectual life, expressed by theological creeds; and as an emotional life, expressed by methods of devotion, by social usages and by the style and method of acting upon the hearts of men. "One may be in sympathy with the intellectual system of any sect, and not with its life and spirit; or with its emotional spirit and habits, but not with its doctrines; and one may, though less often and usually, be at once both with the creed and the practice of a denomination."

1. We are wholly in sympathy with the general life and procedure of what are called the evangelical denominations. Their deep sense of the sinfulness and regenerative needs of men; their sense of the necessity of Divine power in awakening and converting men; their method of meeting right home upon the conscience and heart of men; to secure their immediate obedience to the commands of God; their fervor of spirit, their sense of the depth, inwardness and power of true religion; their habit of laboring for revivals of religion; their ardent missionary enthusiasm; and, above all, the feeling that is sought and earnestly promoted of love and supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ—all these and many like elements, draw us, heart and soul, to the great evangelical denominations.

We find among orthodox sects as much catholicity, as much honesty in investigation, as much patience with those who differ and a disposition to bear, as far as is possible, consistent, with men regarded as in error, as in any of those sects that boast a larger liberality. Human nature predominates in all sects, but nowhere else, according to our experience, appears in greater loveliness than among evangelical sects, whether among ministers or laymen. With the life and spirit of the great orthodox sects we are as much in harmony as we can be with any imperfect human organizations, and nothing will move us from this spirit. The heart is true, and its sympathies are beyond the reach of decrees or anathemas.

2. In regard to the intellectual or doctrinal life, we are, by education and by choice, as much in accord with the systematic belief of the orthodox as large as one evangelical sect is with the creed of another, and as much as the members of the same sect are with any common belief. Men easily agree as to simple facts. But the philosophy of facts, and the system of philosophy, set men at disagreement in the proportion in which men are independently intelligent, and the system comprehensive in scope and minute in statement. Men believe in universal human sinfulness; they differ on the philosophy of sin. They agree as to the fact of a spiritual change; they differ on its philosophy. They agree that the death of Christ was for the salvation of man; they differ on the philosophy of atonement. They agree upon the fact of human responsibility and of divine sanctions; the philosophy of responsibility and of penalties divides them.

These differences are invariable and universal. They exist, either latent or disclosed, in all sects. The world is learning, by slow degrees, that there cannot be a perfect parallel or union of belief in moral truths grouped into systems. The personal element comes in; peculiarities of temperament and education color the aspects of truth. In a system of moral truth, proportion, intensity and relative emphasis of parts, make all the difference possible in results. The attempt at mechanical accuracy has been tried abundantly, and abandoned, except by the Roman Church, where the superstition lingers, as it were, to afford the world an evidence of its absurdity.

A Perfect Gentleman.

One seldom passes a day without hearing some one described as "a perfect gentleman;" yet when it is asked, "What is a perfect gentleman?" there are few who would venture to answer the question. Below we give the opinion of an eminent authority (whose writings have stood the test of more than a century) on this important subject. Let every one read it and profit thereby.

When a good artist would express any remarkable character in sculpture, he endeavors to work up his figure into all the perfections his imagination can form; and to imitate not so much what is, as what may or ought to be. I shall follow their example, in the idea I am going to trace out of a fine gentleman, by assembling together such qualifications as seem requisite to make the character complete. In order to do this I shall premise in general, that by a fine gentleman I mean a man completely qualified for all the service and good, as for the ornament and delight of society. When I consider the frame of mind peculiar to a gentleman, I suppose it is graced with all the dignity and

elevation of spirit that human nature is capable of. To this I would have joined a clear understanding, a reason free from prejudice, a steady judgment, and an extensive knowledge. When I think of the heart of a gentleman, I imagine it firm and intrepid, void of all inordinate passions, and full of tenderness, compassion, and benevolence. When I view the fine gentleman with regard to his manner, methinks I see him modest without bashfulness, frank and affable without impertinence, obliging and complaisant without servility, cheerful and in good-humor without noise. These amiable qualities are not easily obtained; neither are there many men that have genius to excel this way. A finished gentleman is perhaps the most uncommon of all the great characters in life. Besides the natural endowments with which this distinguished man is to be born, he must run through a long series of education. Before he makes his appearance and shines in the world, he must be principled in religion, instructed in all the moral virtues, and led through the whole course of the polite arts and sciences. He should be no stranger to courts and to camps; he must travel to open his mind, to enlarge his views, to learn the policies and interests of foreign states, as well as to fashion and polish himself, and to get clear of national prejudices, of which every country has its share. To all these more essential improvements he must not forget to add the fashionable ornaments of life, such as are the languages and the bodily exercises most in vogue; neither would I have him think even dress itself beneath his notice.

It is no very uncommon thing in the world to meet men of probity; there are likewise a great many men of honor to be found. Men of courage, men of sense, and men of letters are frequent; but the true fine gentleman is what one seldom sees. He is properly a compound of the various good qualities that embellish mankind. As the great poet animates all the different parts of learning by the force of his genius, and irradiates all the compass of his knowledge by the luster and brightness of his imagination, so all the great and solid perfections of life appear in the finished gentleman with a beautiful gloss and varnish; everything he says or does is accompanied with a manner, or rather a charm, that draws the admiration and good-will of every beholder.

On Slang.

Rev. Dr. Hall was sitting in his study one pleasant afternoon in August, his thoughts intent upon his Sunday sermon, and his mind withdrawn from earthly cares, when his train of thought was rudely interrupted, and his attention distracted from his theme by the following conversation:—

"Oh, Nellie, where are you—you'd ought to have been there—just the stunningest fellow."

Then a sound of running feet, and very soon he heard his daughter exclaim:—

"Is that you, Maggie?"

"Yes, come down quick, I've got something to tell you."

"I'll be there in half a jiffy."

Then a door opened and shut, and in a few minutes,

"What do you think, as I was just coming over here, there was just the stunningest fellow, right in front of me. Just as I got opposite the new church, my music roll slipped, and every paper in it fell out on the sidewalk."

"Gracious! I should have been dumb-founded."

"And so I was, but it was so ridiculous that I almost died laughing."

"Well, that fellow, do you think, stopped, turned round and helped me to pick them up. I was all lanky dory then. He walked as far as here with me, and I thanked him of course, etc., etc. 'You know how 'tis yourself.'"

The good doctor scratched his head. Could that be his Nellie, whom he thought so ladylike? He opened the door softly, a little crack, thinking, no doubt, that he had a right to play the part of a listener to so strangely mixed a conversation, and in his own house.

Very soon it was continued, this time his daughter commencing the conversation.

"There, how's that for high?"

"Oh, isn't that sweet, how much was it?"

"Only five dollars, cheap enough."

"Yes indeed; but you said you were going to have pink, this is blue."

"Never mind, it's all the same in Dutch."

The doctor peeped to see what they were talking about—and Miss Nellie was exhibiting her new bonnet to the admiring gaze of her friend.

"It's raging hot here."

"Well, I don't know as I can make it any cooler," said Nellie, looking round, "I suppose father'd kill me if I opened a door." Her father had requested her the day before, to keep the doors closed.

"I guess it's time for me to absquatulate," said Maggie, rising.

"Don't tear yourself away. Are you going to the lecture to-night?"

"Yes, I had a staying old time last Tuesday night."

"George Saunders said he should go home with you to-night."

"Did he? He'd better spell able first."

"That's so. If there's anything I hate 'tis the boys' bothering round; they ought to be put in a barrel and fed through the bung-hole until they are old enough to behave."

"I must bid you a fond adieu now, I've got thousands of errands to do."

"Well, good-by."

"Oh, the Dickens, I've left my parasol."

"Here it is."

"Now, good-by, be sure and come to-night."

"Yes, good-by."

Then the door closed, and Nellie went up stairs.

The doctor was surprised, but not too much so to think of a plan that would be likely to cure the unfortunate habit into which his daughter had fallen. The plan was discussed with the young lady's mother, and adopted. The time for tea had arrived, and when all were fairly seated at the table, Mrs. Hall said, "My dear sir, will you have some tea?"

"In half a jiffy, madam."

Nellie looked up, but her father took no notice.

"Really, this cake is quite stunning," went on the doctor as solemn as a judge. Just then his napkin fell to the floor.

"Gracious, I'm con-dumb-founded," ejaculated the doctor, getting it a little wrong. Nellie gazed at her father in perfect amazement.

"My dear, this sauce is staving. Where did you buy it?"

"I made it," said his wife coolly.

"Oh, well, it's all the same in German."

Nellie dropped her knife and fork.

"You must give me some money for the butcher to-morrow," said Mrs. Hall.

"You'll have to spell 'ability' first," growled the doctor savagely.

Then, suddenly taking out his handkerchief, he gave his nose a tremendous blow. "There," said he, "how's that for high?"

"I know how 'tis myself," meekly replied his wife. This capped the climax. The knowledge that her father must have heard the afternoon conversation was too much for Nellie. She burst into tears and left the room. The sage doctor nodded wisely to his wife, and, when she got out of hearing, exclaimed, "There, wife, I guess we shall hear no more slang phrases from her."

The doctor was right, for Nellie was cured.

The Family Letter.

How the Materials are Prepared—How They are Used—What Business of the Household.

The family letter is written on Sunday. The reason that day is selected is not alone because of the leisure it presents. The quiet of the day, its relief from all influences that irritate or agitate, frees the mind from irrelevant and antagonistic matter, and makes it pre-eminently a fit occasion for communing with distant loved ones. In nine cases out of ten the letter is written by the head of the family, and of those sent an equal proportion is addressed to his wife's folks. We don't know why it is that a man so rarely writes to his own folks, but as it is not the province of this article to treat on that subject, we pretend we don't care. The hour being selected for inditing the letter, the first thing is to find the paper. There is always a drawer in every well-regulated family for keeping such things. It is either in the table or stand. Here the writing paper and odd screws and fiddle strings and broken locks and fish lines and grocery receipts are kept. There may be other things, but if there are he will find them. The sheet of paper is finally found; the fly stands neatly scraped off, and the search commences for the ink and pen. The former is invariably found on the mantel next to the clock, and is immediately laid on the table convenient to the perspiring man, who sarcastically inquires if the letter is to be written to-day or next Sunday. This inspires the wife with new zeal in the search. She goes over the drawer again, because she knows he wouldn't say anything if it was right under his nose, but the pen is not there. Then she looks over the top of the bureau, and lifts everything on the front room table, and says it seems so singular it can't be found, when she saw it only the day before, and thought about the letter. Then she goes into the pantry, and after exploring the lower shelf in vain, stands upon a chair, and carefully goes over the top shelf, where the medicine bottles and unused cans are stationed. After she has done this, she starts up stairs and pretty soon returns with the pen, and takes it to the sink to wash the grease from it, but does not succeed in quite effacing the delicate scent of bergamot. This leads him to observe that anybody who takes a pen-holder to lift hair grease from a bottle is too pure and innocent for this world. Everything now in readiness, good humor is restored, the wife takes a seat opposite with her elbows on the table, and her chin in her hands, and assumes an expression of countenance that is mysteriously calculated to both encourage and depress the writer; and he grasps the pen tightly between his fingers, and stares at the paper with an intensity that is entirely unnecessary. The date line starts off glibly, and then suddenly ceases as it reaches the date itself. He puts the holder in his mouth and immediately spits it out again, making up a face that is no wise suggestive of bergamot, and pettishly asks her if she knows the day of the month. Of course she does. It is the 18th—or is it the—but no—it must be. She hesitates, stares at him, wavers and is lost. She don't know whether it is the 13th or 18th, but the almanac will tell, and she at once starts to hunt it up. This occasions a delay of some fifteen minutes, during which he makes ninety-five passes at one fly. The date having been satisfactorily settled upon, and the things which rolled over the floor as that stand drawer unexpectedly fell out having been restored to their places, the date line is completed, and "Dear mother" started. The pen is a home pen of beautiful mould, and whenever it starts a line it requires a half dozen passes to make it

give down. All home pens do this. And all sheets of paper have weak spots which the ink refuses to cross, thus creating some remarkable divisions of words, and considerable confusion among sentences. Some of these spots are two inches in diameter, and anybody in the next room can tell the moment the writer comes to them, just as well as if he was looking over his shoulder. When the letter is completed, which generally occurs at the end of the fifth hour from the commencement, it is carefully read over, and supplied with absent words, and then gone over again and artistically touched up with the pen at the bare places. Then it is folded up ready for the envelope, and the discovery is made that there is no envelope in the house, and the letter is tucked in behind the clock until the want is supplied.—*Danbury News.*

Depth of the Atlantic Ocean.

The main theatre of sounding operations has been the Atlantic Ocean, which from its relation to the leading commercial nations, and for intercontinental telegraphic purposes, has been more carefully surveyed than any other great body of water. Open from pole to pole, participating in all conditions of climate, communicating freely with other seas, and covering 30,000,000 square miles, it is believed to represent general oceanic conditions, and to contain depths nearly, if not quite, as great as the other ocean basins of the world, although but little is known it is true in this respect of the Indian, Antarctic and Pacific seas. The general result of its soundings would indicate that the average depth of the Atlantic bed is not much more than 12,000 feet, and there seems to be few depressions deeper than 15,000 or 20,000 feet, a little more than the height of Mount Blanc. Dr. Thompson sums up the general results of the Atlantic soundings as follows: "In the Arctic Sea there is deep water reaching 9,000 feet to the west and southwest of Spitzbergen. Extending from the coast of Norway, and including Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Shetland and Orkney, Great Britain and Ireland, and the bed of the North Sea to the coast of France, there is a wide plateau, on which the depth rarely reaches 3,000 feet, but to the west of Iceland, and communicating doubtless with the deep water in the Spitzbergen Sea, a trough 500 miles wide, and in some places nearly 12,000 feet deep, curves along the east coast of Greenland. This is the path of one of the great Arctic return-currents. After sloping gradually to a depth of 3,000 feet to the westward of the coast of Ireland in latitude 52 deg., the bottom suddenly dips to 10,000 feet at the rate of about 15 to 19 feet in the 100; and from this point to within about 200 miles of the coast of Newfoundland, where it begins to shoal again, there is a vast undulating submarine plain, averaging about 12,000 feet in depth below the surface—the 'telegraph plateau.'"

A valley about 500 miles wide, and with a mean depth of 15,000 feet, stretches from off the southwest coast of Ireland, along the coast of Europe, dipping into the Bay of Biscay, past the Strait of Gibraltar, and along the west coast of Africa. Opposite the Cape Verde Islands, it seems to merge into a slightly deeper trough, which occupies the axis of the South Atlantic, and passes into the Antarctic Sea. A nearly similar valley curves around the coast of North America, about 12,000 feet in depth, off New Foundland and Labrador, and, becoming considerably deeper to the southward, where it follows the outline of the coast of the States on the Bahamas and Windward Islands, and finally joins the central trough of the South Atlantic off the coast of Brazil with a depth of 15,000 feet.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Water! Water!

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE GREAT SCARCITY OF WATER, the hours for irrigating from the Government Pipes will, on Sunday, be restricted to two hours each day, viz: From 7 to 9 A. M., and from 2 to 4 P. M.

This Regulation Must be Strictly Observed!

Sprinkling of Streets is Strictly Prohibited

THOS. LONG, Supl. Water Works.
Honolulu, Sept. 23d, 1877.

Books Wanted,

VOLUMES 7, 10, 14, 17, 19, 21, and 22, OF THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, BY J. C. CALHOUN, are wanted for the Public Library, and any person who has or can procure them, is requested to communicate the fact to the KING'S CHAMBERLAIN.

To Let.

A COTTAGE WITH FOUR ROOMS, Also, Kitchen and Bath Room. Situated on the corner of the intersection of the main road and the road leading to the King's Chamberlain's Office. Apply to J. C. WILLIAMS.

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NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING PURCHASED the Stock in Trade of the firm of A. YONGE & CO., of Honolulu, hereby give notice that they will continue the business under the firm name of LEE LOY & CO. All indebtedness of the late firm will be paid by them, and after the 1st of September, 1877, all debts due the late firm from that date will be paid by the undersigned.

CORNER OF STURGEON AND DUNDAS STREETS.
HONOLULU, Sept. 5, 1877.

LEASE OF LAND

At Auction.

By order of the Minister of the Interior, I will sell at Public Auction, at KAILUA, HAWAII,

On Monday, October 30th,

At 12 o'clock Noon.

The Lease of the Unsold Part of the Ahupua'a of

Kohanaiki!

MONA AKAU, HAWAII.

For a term of 15 years. Rent payable annually.

412 41. H. N. GREENWELL, Auctioneer.

ED. HOFFSCHLAGER & CO

Offer for Sale

THEIR CARGO

Per R. C. Wyllie,

Just Received from Bremen!

Consisting in Part of

Heavy Blue Denims, Plain and Striped,

BROWN AND BLUE COTTON, BROWN

White Cottons and Linens of all grades.

Newest Style Fancy Prints